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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 378

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Reginald Martin for
laudable service to the people of Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Reginald Martin, who is the youngest full professor in the history of the University of Memphis, and the only African American professor of Composition at the institution; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with various journals of professional writing, namely *College English*, *The Technical Writing Teacher*, and the *Society of Technical Communication Journal*, Dr. Martin still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to such notable endeavors as editing *The Literary Griot* , and serving as guest editor of *College English: the Afro-American Literary Issue*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Reginald Martin epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin has further established himself as a literary force through his highly acclaimed international anthology, *Black Erotica*, published by Doubleday in 1992, preceded by *Ishmael Reed and the New Black Aesthetic Critics*(St. Martin's, 1988); and

WHEREAS, *Ishmael Reed and the New Black Aesthetic Critics* was nominated for the Clarence L. Holte Award from the Schomburg Research Center in New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin was an invited reader for "Narrative Techniques in Ishmael Reed's Fiction: A Study", by T. Subramaniam, Nagarjuna Nagar University, India; and

WHEREAS, the sequel to *Black Erotica*, *Dark Eros*, was published in July, 1997, followed by 60,000 copies of the paperback version being printed in January, 1999 ; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin has delivered a series of lectures across the country on *Dark Eros*, and his study of the historical impetus of erotic writings by peoples of African descent; and

WHEREAS, Dr.Martin's article "New Paradigms of Love" in *Grace Magazine* addresses other social and academic issues of the current transitional generation of African -American students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin is the first African American author to publish collector's editions in two different genres, with his poetry book, *Southern Secrets*, and book of short stories, *Dysfunction Junction*; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin previously served with acumen as Director of Professional Writing Programs, and was a Special Assistant to the President at the University of Memphis ; and

WHEREAS, Reginald Martin wrote the first curriculum for the newly-established African American Literature Program at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin won the Ford Foundation Award and the American Council of Education Award, and was a finalist for the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1997 and 1998 ; and

WHEREAS, he was the only finalist in the subject of English for the aforementioned Distinguished Teachers Award in 1997; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Reginald Martin received the Distinguished Research Award in Humanities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin is a celebrated and revered member of the Memphis African American community, as exemplified by his instrumental role in the 1999 Annual Kwanzaa Karamu in Memphis, where he presented the seven principles of the Nguzo Saba with eloquence and pride; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate in its deliberations to applaud Dr. Martin for his illustrious journalistic and literary accomplishments, which have greatly enhanced his fields of interest; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Reginald Martin for his service to the state of Tennessee and extend to him our very best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.